

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

HISTORY

OF THE

PALATINE FAMILY

—OF—

WEYGANDT-WEIGAND-WEYGANT-

WYGANT-WEYANT-WEIANT, WYANT

—IN—

AMERICA.

—♦♦♦—

—BY—

CHARLES H. WEYGANT.

NEWBURGH, N. Y.

1899.

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1096. WARREN S. WEIANT

PART II.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL.

All lines of the family in the United States which run back past the Revolutionary epoch into the Colonial period, begin either with Michael Weigand of the Rhine Palatinate, who in 1709 settled at "Quasek Creek and Thanskamir on Hudson's River," now Newburgh, N. Y.; with Cornelius Weygandt, who come from Magdeberg, Germany, to Germantown, Pa., in 1736, or with the Rev. George Albert Weygand of Hanau in Prussia, who in 1749 was called to the pastorate of the Lutheran Church at New Germantown, N. J. It is reasonably certain that all of these were lineal descendants of the Rev. George Herman Weygandt, Lutheran minister, of the village of Neider Saulheim, in Hessen, whose ancestors were natives of Saxony.

The want of definite rules for Anglicizing German family names has, not unfrequently, led to their being variously rendered by professional English translators, as well as by different descendants of the same pioneer emigrants.

In examination of numerous ancient documents, family papers, public and private records and printed volumes, the writer has found the name spelled in forty-eight different ways. Some of the more unusual forms employed were undoubtedly originated by careless or uninformed persons making the early

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records, while others, which were quite common a century ago, have fallen into disuse. But over half a score of these renderings have been perpetuated through adoption by branches of the family residing in different sections of the country.

BISHOP JOHN WIGAND, the first of the family of whom the present generation in America have any definite knowledge, was a learned divine of the reformed religion. He was born in Mansfeld, in upper Saxony, in the year 1523, and at an early age was sent to the famous schools of Wittenberg, where he studied the arts and languages and attended the lectures of Luther and Melancthon. Developing a remarkable aptitude for imparting as well as for acquiring knowledge, he was, when but eighteen years of age, made master of the St. Lawrence school at Newremsberg. This position he filled with credit until 1544, when he returned to Wittenberg and there took his degree of A. M., and began the study of divinity with great earnestness. But before he had completed his divinity course a series of events, growing out of the religious wars of the period, caused the complete dispersal of the students of that University. He was then invited to his native place, Mansfeld, where he was ordained and soon became very popular as a preacher and instructor of youth. In 1553 he was chosen superintendent of Magdeberg, where by his preaching and teaching he greatly promoted reformed religion.

In 1560 the Elector of Saxony founded the University of Jena, and Wigand was chosen its first Profes-

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sor of Divinity. After filling this responsible chair for two years he was constrained to resign because of "some angry disputes between Illyricus and Strigius" presumably over matters of doctrine. On leaving Jena he returned to Magdeberg, but almost immediately thereafter was chosen Superintendent of Wismar. At about this period he received the degree of D. D. from the University of Rostock.

After Dr. Wigand had remained at Wismar seven years he was recalled to Jena as Professor of Divinity and Superintendent. Five years later he again left Jena, and, after spending a short period with the Duke of Brunswick, was tendered and accepted the Divinity professorship of Königsberg, where, two years later, he was made a Bishop.

Bishop Wigand was a man of pure life, positive convictions and great force of character. In seeking relaxation from exacting mental labor, he ever found great delight in his garden, where he gathered many rare and curious plants. Baron Heller mentions a work on botany written by him, which was published in three volumes. Among his other published works is "A Confutation of Sedonius's Popish Catechism," printed in Latin and Dutch; "A' Confutation of George Magar," several commentaries on different books of the Bible, a number of treatises of a controversial nature, and a considerable part of "The Magdeberg Centuries"—a voluminous collection highly spoken of by many German scholars. Bishop Wigand died in the year 1578, aged 55, at Königsberg, Prussia, which is to-day noted alike for its beautiful cathedral, with its organ, erected in 1721,

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containing 5,000 pipes; for its university, founded in 1544, with its great library; for its astronomical observatory, and for its extensive botanical garden.

1. REV. GEORGE HERRMAN WEYGANDT, (with whom the numbering of generations in this record begins), was a kinsman, and probably a lineal descendant, of Bishop John Wigand. He was for many years the Lutheran minister of Nieder Saulheim, a village of some importance located about ten miles south of the City of Mainz, and about twenty miles north and to the west of the City of Worms, in Hessen, Germany.

CHILDREN.

2. Herrman, b. about 1648, m. in 1669 Anna Christman.
3. Michael, b. in 1656, m. Anna Catharena ———?
4. ———? ———? ———?

2. HERRMAN WEYGANDT, 1648?-1684 (1), was by occupation a cooper, and conducted a successful business at Osthofen, near the City of Worms. There in 1678 he built a substantial dwelling which he occupied until his death in 1684. This building was still standing and in a good state of preservation in 1892. From this fact we may reasonably conclude that Osthofen was one of the few villages in that part of the Palatinate which escaped the torch of the armies of Louis XIV in their various campaigns of devastation.

CHILDREN.

5. Anna Juliana, b. 1671, m. in 1695 Jacob Mertz.
6. Anna Catherine, b. 1674, m. in 1695 Philip Ackerman.
7. Henry, b. 1682, conducted a bakery at Openheim.
8. John Balthaser, b. 1682, m. in 1706 widow Ottelia Glaser.

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3. MICHAEL WEIGAND, 1656-1723 (1), was born near the ancient city of Worms, in the Lower Palatinate, or the Palatinate of the Rhine. "Situated on both sides of that noble river, between Bavaria and Elsass, and extending from above the City of Spire northward to near Cologne, the Palatinate was as fair a land as all Europe can show. The burghers of its cities were wealthy merchants. Its fertile fields and vine-clad hills brought competence and comfort to its people, and sent abundance of corn and wine to other countries of Europe. Religion and knowledge were so well diffused that there was no other people of that day, to whom in these respects the Palatines stood second. The situation of the Palatinate, the highway from France into the heart of Germany, together with its beauty and fertility, made it a Naboth's vineyard to Louis XIV, whose ambition was colossal, whose absolutism could ill brook denial, and whose rapacity recoiled from no extreme of cruelty. His schemes and plots made life a burden to the Electors Palatine, Charles and his son, Charles Louis. The death of the latter, in 1685, without issue, ended the Zimmern line of the Electorate, and the succession passed to Frederick of the house of Newburgh. The moment of transition seemed to Louis auspicious to his plans. He at once laid claim to the Palatinate in the name of his brother, who had married the sister of Charles Louis. The claim was opposed by Holland, Austria, Bavaria, Prussia, and other smaller German states, which, under the leadership of the Great William, organized the Grand Alliance and prepared for war.

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Louis, to be beforehand with the double purpose of wreaking vengeance on the Palatinate—a vengeance made more bitter by the asylum there given to the Huguenots, whom the Revocation of Nantes had driven into exile—and also of making the country untenable by his foes, sent an army of 50,000 men, with orders to its commander to ravage the province with fire and sword and to make the land a desert. The invasion took place in winter. The French went through the length and breadth of the country, destroying cities, burning villages, stripping the people of their possessions, compelling them to pull down their walls, to stand by and see their wealth perish in the flames, killing such as endeavored to save anything from the ruins, and then driving them into the fields to there perish with hunger and cold.

“ In the following spring the peasants were forced to plow under their crops. The whole land was filled with mourning. Many thousands were killed; many were starved or frozen to death. In one day the Elector, standing on the wall of Mannheim, counted twenty-three villages in flames. The ferocity of the war and the sufferings of the people cannot be adequately described. To this day remain their monuments in the ivy-covered ruins, which give so much of beauty and charm to the hills among which flows the Rhine. For a few years the people had rest, and then in 1693 another invasion brought on another wave of widespread misery. Then it was that the great castle of Heidelberg was reduced to that condition which makes it the greatest and most picturesque ruin in Europe.

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“But a few years had elapsed, far too few for the Palatines to retrieve their losses, when the outbreak of the war of the Spanish succession dragged them once more between the upper and nether mill stones. This war, brought on by Louis, in prosecution of a claim to the Spanish crown for his grandson Philip—a claim opposed by the same alliance with the addition of England—was begun in 1701 and drew out its miseries and cruelties for thirteen long years. Most of its fighting was done in Spain and Germany, but the Palatinate came in for a full share of tribulation. It furnished both armies a pathway. Many times they went back and forth leaving wretchedness in their trail. At length, in 1707, Louis dispatched an army to repeat, so far as possible, the rapine of twenty years before. With this the cup of misery was full.”

Michael Weigand had now witnessed for the third time, in a period of less than three decades, the wanton devastation of his loved but most unfortunate native land. In the second instance, and perhaps the first as well, he had participated as a patriot soldier in the unsuccessful efforts made by his brave but ever over-matched countrymen, to beat back the cruel invaders.

And now as he stood with over fifty years of his active life behind him and an impoverished and houseless family clinging to him, amid the smouldering ruins of the comfortable dwelling so long called home; and saw in the mounds of smoking ashes about him, all that remained of the accumulations of years of honest toil and endeavor, is it any wonder

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the strong attachment, which in previous storms had moored him to the fatherland, at last snapped like an overstrained cable and left his shattered bark to float whithersoever the shifting tide of events might carry it.

But his paternal instincts, quickened by his faith in the God of his fathers, called forth his better manhood and held him above despair. So that when the good pastor Kockerthal encouragingly talked to his homeless flock of the New Land of Promise, three thousand five hundred miles away, Michael Weigand was one of the first to declare his readiness to undertake the long journey thither.

A number of others, who had in like manner been despoiled by the heartless invaders, joined in the momentous undertaking. And ere long Pastor Kockerthal and a goodly number of his flock turned their backs upon their God-favored but man-cursed native land and set their anxious faces resolutely toward the far away New World.

Their passage down the Rhine to and through the Netherlands, and thence by ship across the Hague and up the Thames, was of itself, in those days, an expensive and tedious journey. Just how many weary days or weeks or months it consumed, or what hardships they endured, or how many of the original number lost heart and turned back before it was accomplished, may never be known. Official records show that when in April, 1708, they reached London, the original company contained but forty-one souls, viz: Ten men, ten women and twenty-one children; and that the meagre store of funds, with which

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they had started out on their pilgrimage, was completely exhausted.

Fortunately their countrymen and Lutheran brethren in the English Metropolis, when informed of their coming, made preparations for maintaining them while they tarried there, and for speeding them on their journey when they should take their departure. The Lutheran churches of London were, at that period, presided over by pastors of culture and ability, who enjoyed the good will of Queen Anne and her councilors.

Through the influence and personal assistance of these worthy pastors, the Rev. Kockerthal speedily secured from Her Majesty favorable consideration of a petition asking that a suitable tract of land in America, on which to settle, be granted himself and his associates; and that free transportation be furnished them thither to the end that a new frontier settlement might there be founded to the mutual benefit of the petitioners and the Crown.

The leading spirits of Kockerthal's company appear to have been familiar with the history of Hudson's journey up and down the "Rhine of America," which bears his name. And they seem to have been permitted to carefully inspect the government maps and records descriptive of the country through which it ran. Doubtless in their examination they recalled the words inscribed in the log book of the Half Moon by direction of the famous navigator, declaring it to be "as beautiful a land as one can tread upon." And surely they must have been delighted when they learned that the easily identi-

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fied site, concerning which Hudson caused to be added, "A very pleasant place to build a town on." yet remained in the wild natural state in which its discoverer found it, save only that the Indian title to the land had been effectually extinguished and the native lords had departed on their forced march, over blood-stained trails that led ever onward toward the setting sun.

It was well known in government circles that the grievous misfortunes which had driven this pioneer band from their homes on the banks of the Rhine, were the direct results of their country's alliance with England in her war with France. This fact will account for the unusual attention and consideration given them by the august Lords of Trade, as well as for the especial interest taken in them by good Queen Anne.

On receipt of their petition it was at first proposed by the Lords of Trade that a considerable tract of unoccupied territory on the Island of Jamaica be granted them, instead of that which they desired at the mouth of Quassaick Creek on the west banks of Hudson's River. This latter tract was said to be in reality covered by one of the extravagant grants made by Colonel Fletcher, late Governor of the Province. An act had, it is true, been passed under a succeeding Colonial Governor annulling the same, but unfortunately it had never received the official approval of the Crown and was therefore without force.

But the truthfulness of the old adage, "Where there is a will there is a way," was speedily demonstrated. The desires of the petitioners centered

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on Hudson's River. They interposed the valid objection to Jamaica that its hot climate was not suited to people reared in the Palatinate. A suggestion that the good Queen be recommended to approve the act annulling Col. Fletcher's "Extravagant Grants" had the desired effect, and a recommendation to that end was incorporated in a favorable report on the before-mentioned petition of Kockerthal and his associates, made by the "Lords' Commissioners of Trade and Plantations," on April 28, 1708. This petition was formally read "before the Queen in Council at the Court of Kensington," on the 10th day of May following.

"Joshua Kockerthal, the Evangelical minister, and his associates," say the Lords' Commissioners, "are poor Lutherans, come hither from the lower Palatinate in Germany. They are very necessitous

* * not having at present anything to subsist themselves. They have been reduced to this * * condition by the ravages committed by the French in the Lower Palatinate, where they lost all they had. * * They have produced to us several testimonials from the Bayliffs or Principal Magistrates of the villages where they dwelt, which by the assistance of the ministers of the Lutheran churches here we have examined and find they give a good character to said minister and the others with him." Continuing their report, the Commissioners recommend the approval of act of 1698, annulling Col. Fletcher's grants and that the petitioners be then sent to settle on the land they desire on Hudson's River; also that free transportation be given them thither on fleet to

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be sent with Lord Lovelace, the newly appointed Governor of the province. And further, that they be supplied with necessary tools for agriculture, and before their departure be made denizens of the Kingdom for their greater encouragement.

Subsequent records show that "Her Majesty in Council" approved the said report, and that by her direction action was taken to carry into effect its several recommendations; "the Queen being graciously pleased to settle them in New York at her own expences," including an allowance of 9d a day to each person for a twelve months for their support.

Unfortunately a long and vexatious delay occurred in the departure of Lord Lovelace, so that the middle of October had arrived ere Kockerthal's company, now increased to 52 by additional arrivals from the Palatinate, embarked on the transport *Globe*, anxiously longing to once more set feet on land they could call home even though it be in the wilderness of a strange country.

From records made with special care because of interest taken in them by the Queen, we are reliably informed of the occupation of the heads of families and the names and ages of every member of the colony. The portion of this record relating to the Weygantdt, or Weigand, family, reads as follows:

"Michael Weigand, husbandman, aged 52.

"Anna Catharina Weigandin, his wife, aged 54.

"Anna Maria Weigandin, child, aged 13.

"Tobias Weigand, child, aged 7.

"George Weigand, child, aged 5."

That the ocean voyage of the Colonists on the

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transport Globe possessed none of the delights of a six days' run on a modern "racer" is clearly shown by Lord Lovelace in the following communication, dated New York, December 8th, 1708:

"To the Rt. Honorable Lords' Commissioners for
Trade and Plantations:

"My Lords.

"I do myself the honor to acquaint your Lordships that I happily arrived here this morning, having been nine weeks and odd days on my passage. * * I do not hear of the arrival of any other ship of our fleet except the Unity, which struck on the banks of Sandy Hook; she was left by all her seamen, but since got off and is gone to sea again. We have not since heard of her, but hope she is safe. * * Our winter sets in very hard. The ports and rivers are full of ice. I am in pain for the Germans and recruits on board the Globe, they wanting water and the weather not permitting us to assist them. * * Our poor seamen were so benumbed with cold that at last we had but twenty-five men fit for any duty, and had not the soldiers which we had on board assisted, the ship had been in great danger."

The New York colonial records contain nothing more definite than the reference made by Lord Lovelace in the letter quoted, to the sufferings from exposure and thirst experienced by the family of Michael Weigand and their associates prior to their debarkation from the distressed transport Hart at the port of New York. Reaching that city in the winter, it is probable the colonists remained there until the following April before proceeding to the

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farms assigned them at "Quasek Creek and Thanskamir"—a wilderness region sixty miles up the Hudson—then known to passing skippers as "Fox Town," from the fact that great numbers of foxes had burrowed into the hillsides near the river and were frequently seen running in and out of their holes and disporting in the morning sunlight.

It appears however that Lord Lovelace immediately after assuming the reins of Government of the colony, had, in obedience to specific instructions received before he left England, caused the district assigned to the Kockerthal Company to be located and so mapped out that each family farm or plot should have a frontage on the river and extend just 100 chains into the wilderness. An official survey was made in 1713, but the patent was not issued until seven years afterward. A narrow strip containing fifty acres, and running from the river to the western limits of the patent, was set apart to each man, woman and child of the original company, and as the Weigand family consisted of five persons, the Weigand farm, at Newburgh, N. Y., consisted of just 250 acres. Its northern line ran parallel with and some sixty feet south of the south line of what is now Washington street, and its south line parallel with and about one hundred feet south of the present south line of Renwick Street.

For centuries previous to Hudson's discovery of the river in 1608, a well beaten Indian trail led from the wilderness country at the southward to the Jerusalem of the aborigines, named by early and unsentimental Dutch colonists, "The devil's dance

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chamber." The site of their wilderness temple is situated about five miles north of Newburgh, and is now laid down on maps of the Hudson as "Danskammer Point."

Before the arrival of Michael Weigand and his associates, this trail, which ran parallel with and near the river's bank, had been broadened into a wagon road and made a part of the King's highway, leading from Kingston to the Jerseys. This highway, now our Liberty street and Balmville road, ran through all the farms of the German Patent. And by or very near it they naturally built their log cabins, each on the side of his farm nearest the center of the settlement.

The first dwelling erected by Michael Weigand doubtless stood on the site now occupied by the southeast portion of the historic stone building, known as Washington's Headquarters, which has accomplished more than any other inanimate thing within the present city limits to spread the fair fame of Newburgh on the Hudson. A few years later a more substantial structure, built of stone and mighty floor beams, hewn from the giants of the primeval forest, made its appearance by the side of the log cabin, and we learn from the tax rolls that prior to 1718 Michael Weigand had come to be rated among the comparatively well to do residents of the Precinct of the Highlands. Very little of a personal nature relating to him during the last decade of his eventful life is known to the writer. About all that the early records reveal is that he paid

8. JOHN B. WEYGANDT—10. TOBIAS WEYGAND.

his taxes, lived at peace with his neighbors, and departed this life in 1723, in the 67th year of his age.

CHILDREN.

9. Anna Maria, born in Germany in 1695.
10. Tobias, born in Germany in 1701.
11. George (Jurey), born in Germany in 1703.

8. JOHN BALTHASER WEYGANDT, 1682-1730 (2, 1), of Osthofen, Germany, inherited considerable property from his father and a large estate from a half brother. His wife brought to him an estate received from her first husband, Conrad Glasser, to which was soon added that of her father, Cornelius Dimmler. This accumulation of estates gave the family a large income and great prominence. Mr. Weygandt was a councilman and an Elder in the Lutheran Church at Osthofen, and it was said paid the major part of the village taxes.

CHILDREN.

12. Anna Maria, b. 1706, m. Simon Bush of Underheim.
13. Anna Dorothea, b. 1710, m. Rhinehard Scharman.
14. John George, b. 1712, m. 1735 Catherine Gertrude Goebel.
15. Cornelius, b. 1713, m. July 5, 1739, Maria Agnetta Bechtel.
16. Gertrude Catherine, b. 1719, m. Daniel Brön of Monsheim.
17. Elizabeth, b. 1725, m. 1755 Augustine Gebbard.
18. Anna Clara, b. 1727, m. Christian Fehmmesher.
19. Henry, was a resident of Openheim.

10. TOBIAS WEYGAND, born in 1701 (3, 1), came from the banks of the Rhine to the banks of the Hudson in the year 1708-9 with the pioneer band of Lutheran refugees, of which his father, Michael, was the patriarch. He is first mentioned in early records of Newburgh, under date of 1724, when his name appears with that of his brother George on

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the tax rolls of Newburgh Precinct, in the place of the father. Previous to 1725 Tobias Weygand was elected one of the trustees of the Glebe, and on June 23, 1744, was "anew confirmed" in said office, which he continued to hold until July 2, 1747, when he and Berger Minders, the last of the Lutherans to fill that position, were succeeded by Alexander Colden and Richard Albertson, who were of the Episcopal faith. In 1737 the names of the brothers, Tobias and George Weygand, again appear together on the early records; this time as members of Capt. Thomas Ellison's Company, of Col. Chambers' Ulster County regiment; and as such they doubtless participated in some of the early campaigns against the hostile Indians on the Western frontiers.

Throughout his life, Tobias Weygand was closely identified with the Lutheran congregation and took a leading part in building the little square chapel on the Glebe, remembered by many of the present generation. The site of this building, which was the first church erected within the limits of the City of Newburgh, is in the "Old Town" grave-yard just west of the First Presbyterian Church, and is now marked by four wooden posts driven in the ground where its four corners rested. Very recently, however, the members of Quassaick Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution, of Newburgh, have inaugurated a movement, having for its object the marking of the site by a suitably inscribed monument.

It is at present unknown to the writer who Tobias Weygand married, or the date of his death. He was

11. JURY (GEORGE) WYGANT.

buried near the site of the little chapel referred to, but the particular plain unlettered stone which marks his grave can no longer be distinguished.

CHILDREN.

- 20. Tobias, born about 1728, married ————?
- 21. Martin, born in 1730, m. Susan Albertson.
- 22. John, born 1740, m. Aug. 24, 1764, Hannah Rider.
- 23. Berger, ————? ————?

11. JURY (GEORGE) WYGANT, 1703-1778, (3,1), was the youngest of the three children of Michael Weigand, of the company of Palatines, which in the Spring of 1709 made the first clearings in the primeval wilderness region at Quassaick Creek, on the west banks of "Hudson's River," and there, by the hasty erection of a half score of rude log cabins, laid the foundation of what is now the historic and beautiful city of Newburgh, N. Y.

The Weigand family lived for several years in the log cabin erected in 1709, and the Weigand children played about it beneath the shade of the wide spreading branches of great trees—hoary giants of the forest—which for centuries had occupied what is now the well kept lawn surrounding Orange County's most famous Colonial and Revolutionary structure. The great oaks are gone, and in their stead, here and there about the grounds, are iron and brass implements of war—huge cannon, large mouthed mortars and field pieces of comparatively ancient pattern and of foreign make—trophies gained in battle. The little log cabin long since disappeared, and in its stead is a yet substantial stone structure, filled with a vast collection of Revolutionary relics, old flint-lock muskets, rusty swords, tat-

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tered battle flags, ancient manuscripts, moth-eaten uniforms, and a variety of articles in some way associated with or once owned or used by revered patriots of '76, or heroes of later wars.

This ancient building and the grounds about it belong now to the State of New York and it is maintained as an object lesson in patriotism. If you ask the accommodating superintendent how old the building is he may possibly point to the room with seven doors and one window, and to the two smaller rooms adjoining, and say: "This northeast corner was erected by an old Dutchman and his sons, prior to 1720; the southeast corner was added by another Dutchman some thirty years later, and the western portion was built on and the whole building somewhat remodeled by Colonel Jonathan Hasbrouck a few years previous to the breaking out of the Revolutionary War." One of the sons of the old Dutchman referred to was the subject of this sketch, Jury (George) Weigand or Wygant, who came into possession of this portion of the original Weigand farm after the death of his father in 1723.

It will be remembered that many of the immediate descendants of the Rev. George Herrman Weygandt, of the Rhine Palatinate, who came to America, had more or less trouble with the anglicized spelling of their family name, but the particular member of whom we are now writing was peculiarly unfortunate in his given name also. Could the original record of his christening be produced his name would doubtless be found spelled "Djordsj," which according to the best authorities I can find ought to be

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pronounced as if spelled Yoris or Joris, the English equivalent of which is George. But as a matter of fact it is often spelled Jury, Jurey, or Jurry, and pronounced accordingly. These early German colonists clung tenaciously to their mother tongue and very naturally objected to having their names changed to suit their English neighbors, either as to orthography or pronunciation. English officials on the other hand, persisted in substituting the English equivalents for their German given names, and in so recording their family names, that when pronounced by thick English tongues their German owners would be able to recognize them.

The records of Newburgh Precinct show that Tobias and George, the two sons of Michael Weigand, the elder, paid the taxes for the first time in 1724 on land previously recorded in the name of their father, and that in 1838 they were both members of the local militia company commanded by Capt. Thomas Ellison and attached to Col. A. Gaasbeck Chambers' regiment. This was the first military organization formed in the district, and is said to have participated in several campaigns against the hostile Indians on the then western frontier, on the banks of the Delaware River.

Shortly after reaching his majority, Jurey (George) Weigand or Wygant married Jenetje (Jane), a sister of Mrs. Capt. William Bond, of the adjoining settlement, now Marlborough, Ulster County, N. Y. But the young couple continued to reside in Newburgh until about the year 1744, when they removed to Marlborough and settled permanently on a 234 acre

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farm, which had come into their possession from the Capt. Bond Estate, which is described by an ancient document now before the writer, as follows:

“Beginning at a dwarft tree and running thence N. N. E. 18 chains, thence due East 144 chains, thence S. 34 W., 20 chains; thence due W. 140 chains to place of beginning. Being the southerly one-third part of a certain lott of Land, No. 6, being Capt. Wm. Bond's lott, in a certain tract lying and being in the County of Ulster and adjoining the Old Man's Kill on the west of the Hudson River, granted by Letters patent bearing date the 10th day of Febry., 1714, to Lewis Morris, Esq., and Company, which was allotted to sd. William Bond, 12th August, 1721, and divided into three lots Nov. 13, 1740.

“Memorandum, Nov. 15, 1740—That lotts were drawn according to the names and numbers * * in the presence of under subscribers, viz: Peter Connelly number one, Peter Connelly number two, Jurey Waggant number three, as witness our hands.

ALEXR. COLDEN,

JOHN BEATTY,

BENJ. STOUT.”

“Memorandum—That on the 5th day of Jan. Anno Dom. 1743-4, personally appeared before me, Charles Clinton, Esq., one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Ulster, Mr. Alexander Colden and made oath on ye Holy Evanglystt that he was present when the above lotts were drawn by Peter Connelly and Jurey Weygant, and that sd. Peter Connelly drew lott No. one and lott number

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two, and that Jurey Weygant drew lott number three. Given under my hand.

“CHAS. CLINTON.”

The fact and the date of Jurey (George) Weigand's removal from Newburgh to Marlborough is definitely fixed by following affidavit made by his son Michael some forty-three years afterward:

“Ulster County—Personally appeared before me, Wolvert Ecker, Esq., one of the people's Justices of the Peace for the County of Ulster, Michael Wegant, who being duly sworn by Cadwalader Colden, says:

“Am 61 years of age; father's name was Jurey Wheygant; was one of the original proprietors and possessors of a tract of land called the German Patent of Newburgh. Deponent was born there and lived there with his father until he was about eighteen years of age, when they moved to where they are now living, which is about 5 miles from said German Patent.

“Dated Feb. 26, 1787.

“Signed, MICHAEL WHYGANT.”

On Nov. 10, 1747, Susanna, widow of Capt. Bond, executed to her sister Jane, the wife of Jurey (George) Wygant, a deed for an undivided one-third part of a tract of land near Marlborough, Ulster County, containing 500 acres, which deed is witnessed by Henry Livingston and Cornelius Livingston, and reads in part, as follows:

“To all Christian people to whom these presents shall or may come, greeting:—Know ye that I, Susanna Bond, of the County of Ulster, in the Province of New York, for and in consideration of the sum of

11. JURY (GEORGE) WYGANT.

fifteen shillings current money of the Province of New York, but more especially for the love and affection that I have and do bear toward my loving brother-in-law, Jurey Wygant, and Jane his wife, * * * I have given and granted unto the said Jurey Weygant and Jane his wife, all the one full just and undivided third part or share of a certain tract of land, being part of the land formerly granted to Captain John Evans, in Ulster County, and since vacated and reassumed, and since granted by patent to Captain William Bond, deceased, beginning at a scrub Black Oak tree marked with three notches and a cross, standing at a south end of a meadow (commonly called ten stone meadow), on the west side of hills called the Blue hills, which are in the west bounds of the Land granted to Coll. Morris and Company, and runs N. N. E. eighty chains, thence N. N. W. sixty-two chains and a half, thence S. S. W. eighty chains, and thence E. S. E. sixty-two chains and a half to the place where it began, containing five hundred acres."

By deed dated Dec. 7, 1762, Susanna Bond in consideration of five hundred pounds, conveys a third piece of land, received from her late husband, Capt. William Bond, situated in the County of Ulster and containing 166 acres to "Jane, the wife of Jurey Weakant."

This last deed is witnessed by Thomas Woolsey and Leonard Smith, acknowledged before "Direk Wynkoop, Jun., Esq., one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, and duly recorded by Christopher Toppen, Deputy Clerk.

11. JURY (GEORGE) WYGANT.

Mr. Elmer E. Wygant, of Albany, procured from the archives of the Secretary of State for publisher of this record a certified copy of the will of Jury (George) Wygant, the body of which reads as follows:

“In the name of God, Amen. This twelfth day of January, in the year of our Lord, 1763, I, Jury Wygant, of the Precinct of Newburgh, County of Ulster, and Province of New York, Yeoman, being in perfect health and of sound mind and memory, calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, and after death the judgment, do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following: First of all I recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, nothing doubting but at the general resurrection to receive the same again by the mighty power of God in and through the mediation of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a christian, decent burial at the discretion of my executors. And as touching such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I do give, demise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form, viz:

“Imprimus, I give and bequeath unto my dearly beloved wife, Jane, the one-third part of the profits of all my real and personal estate during her life or during the time she shall continue my widow.

“Secondly, I give, bequeath and dispose unto my eldest son, William, that thirty acres of land where he now dwells, in such manner as is shown in my

11. JURY (GEORGE) WYGANT.

son Michael's deed, bearing date ye 12th day of Jan., 1763, reference thereto being may at any time appear.

“Thirdly. I give, bequeath and dispose unto my well beloved daughters, viz: Catharine, Susannah, Mary, Sarah, Nancy, and West, all the remainder of my real and personal estate. (That is) after my said wife's death. (That is to say) my will is that after my said wife's death or after she marries again that my Executors, hereafter named, shall set up all my real and personal estate as aforesaid that is to be to my said daughters, and sell the same by way of public vendue to the highest bidder, then to dispose of the same to my said daughters in manner following: And in the first place my will is that they pay unto each of my daughters, except West, the sum of five pounds, and my will is that at the same time to pay unto my said daughter West the sum of twenty pounds, then I will and order that the remainder of the money be put out to interest at such per cent. as my said Executors shall think proper. And my will is further that my Executors shall call in the said money annually and pay unto each of my daughters, aforesaid, the sum of five pounds, yearly, keeping the residue at interest until there is none left. And further, my will is that in case either or all my said daughters die, that then my said Executors shall not dispose of any of said money unto either of their husbands, but shall keep such money at interest until their child or children shall arrive to ye age of 21 years, and to dispose of the same unto them; that if more than one, all their proportion, share and share

14. JOHN GEORGE WEYGANDT.

alike. And further, in case either of my daughters shall die and leave no issue, then my will is that such part be equally shared among all the rest of the sisters' children, in manner aforesaid.

"(And my will is, notwithstanding, that, first of all my just debts and funeral charges be paid.)

"And lastly, I do hereby constitute and appoint Lieutenant Lewis DeBoise, Humphrey Merrit, and my son, Michael Wygant, or either two of them, as Executors to this, my last Will and Testament, hereby disallowing and disannulling all other Wills and Testaments by me or in my name, holding firm and sure this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament. In testimony whereof, I, the said Jury Wygant, hath hereunto, to this, my Last Will and Testament, set my hand and seal the day and year first within written."

CHILDREN.

24. William, born about 1725, m. Mary Silkworth.
25. Catherine.
26. Susanna.
27. Mary.
28. Sarah.
29. Michael, born about 1730, m. Rebecca.
30. Nancy.
31. West.

14. JOHN GEORGE WEYGANDT, born 1711, (8, 2, 1), of Osthofen, in Hessen, Germany, was by occupation a saddler. He married in 1735 CATHERINE GERTRUDE GOEBEL. They probably had several children, but the only one concerning whom we have any knowledge was a son named after his grandfather.

CHILD.

32. John Bethazer, of Openheim, in Hessen, Germany.

15. CORNELIUS WEYGANDT.

15. CORNELIUS WEYGANDT, 1713-1799, (8, 2, 1), was born at Osthofen, in the Palatinate, Germany. His parents were strict adherents of the Lutheran faith, and gave him the advantages of a christian education. His father, by occupation a vintner, the son was taught the same business, and for a time was located at Magdeburg, but finally concluded to settle in the "New World." At the age of 23 he sailed from Rotterdam in the ship *Harle*, of London, Ralph Harle, master, reaching Philadelphia, where he took the oath of allegiance to the Crown of Great Britain and the Province of Pennsylvania, September 1, 1736.

He remained in Philadelphia a few years, then removed to Germantown, where he learned the trade of wood carver with Rev. John Bechtel, one of the "fathers of the German Reformed Church in America," whose daughter, MARIA AGNETA BECHTEL, he married (her father performing the ceremony) on July 5th, 1739, which union lasted nearly fifty years and in which were born four sons and four daughters.

In January, 1746, Mr. Weygandt with sundry citizens of Germantown made application to the Moravians at Bethlehem, Pa., desiring them to establish in Germantown a school for girls. The school was opened September 21, 1746, in the house of the Rev. Bechtel, but was discontinued in May, 1749.

In 1755 he removed to a tract of land on the "Lehigh Hills," opposite Bethlehem, Pa., now fashionable "Fountain Hill," South Bethlehem, where he erected a house (part of which is still standing) near

15. CORNELIUS WEYGANDT.

the present Bishopthorpe Seminary. He here engaged in the occupation of wood carver (or turner, as the records have it) and in limited agricultural pursuits. In 1760 he removed to a site on the Lehicton (now Bushkill) Creek, where he purchased a tract of land adjacent to that owned and occupied by the Delaware Indian Chief Tatamy, in one of the most picturesque and fertile valleys of Northampton County, Pa. There he built a substantial stone house with gambrel roof and other colonial outlines, in which he lived for more than thirty years. This house was demolished in 1893. In the Revolutionary war and struggle for independence, Mr. Weygandt was an ardent patriot. He was too old for military service, but two of his sons participated, and he served as a member of the County Committee of Observation from May 20 to Nov. 11, 1776, and was a member of the Standing Committee of Correspondence of that body; the official records testify to his unfailing loyalty. At various times he also held the office of township assessor, inspector, freeholder, and other minor offices.

On May 28, 1789, he met with the loss of his wife, to whom he had been married 50 years, less 37 days, and he soon afterwards removed from the homestead on the Bushkill where he had lived so long, and with advancing years made his home with his children. He died at the house of his daughter (Hannah Best), near Christian Spring, Nazareth, Pa., on October 1st, 1799, aged 86 years 6 months and 25 days.

In the archives of the Moravian Church, at Schoen-eck, Pa., is preserved the memoir pronounced by

15. CORNELIUS WEYGANDT.

the pastor, Rev. J. Frederick Frueauff, at the funeral of Mr. Weygandt. From this we learn that at his death two children had preceded him to the grave, and up to his 85th birthday he himself kept a list of his descendants, which at that time numbered 52 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

Although he lived in close relation with the Moravians, of which faith his wife was a member, as were his father-in-law Bechtel's family, he was loath to forsake his Lutheran belief. He finally, however, sought closer fellowship with the Brethren (Moravians), and as soon as he understood that his faith, according to the Lutheran catechism, was the main doctrine of the Moravian Church, he united with that denomination on December 18, 1785, at Schoen-eck, Pa., and on March 18, 1786, partook with them for the first time of the Lord's Supper.

During the first years of his widower's estate, he imagined the term of his life would be 80 years, and as he had cherished this hope so firmly, it caused him no little trouble to see his wish unfulfilled. He was a man of a very active spirit, and as he was without employment his activity turned into a sort of restlessness. He himself said during his last illness that lying still was the hardest thing for him, as restlessness and motion had always constituted his life. He was fond of walking, and indulged in this exercise freely. His last walk was on August 21, 1799, when at the age of eighty-six and one-half years, he walked to Bethlehem and return, a distance of nearly 20 miles, to attend the annual meeting of the "Society for futhering the Gospel among

15. CORNELIUS WEYGANDT.

the Heathen," to which society he belonged. On the 28th of the same month he was attacked with dysentery, and he became then fully convinced that this illness would cause his death, which he anticipated with joy and special longing, as everything in life was indifferent to him. The longing to depart was so great, that the time of waiting for the desired moment of going home to the Lord often seemed long to him. On the morning of September 25, after a sudden but very short period of brightness, he grew very weak; hymns were sung and he was given the Lord's blessing to his departure. From this time on he lay in great weakness until 9 o'clock in the forenoon of October 1, 1799, when his soul passed gently and blissfully into the arms of his Redeemer. He lies buried in the little church-yard in the village of Schoeneck, near Nazareth, Pa., where also lie the remains of his sainted wife. The inscription on his tombstone reads:

CORNELIUS
WEYGAND,
born March 7, 1713,
at Osthofen
Palatinate.
Departed
Oct. 1,
1799.

The will of Cornelius Weygandt is recorded in the County Records at Easton, Pa., and is dated Easton, July 26, 1796. It was witnessed by Judge William Henry and Joachim Wiegman. He willed to his sons: John, 50 pounds, a chest of drawers and re-

15. CORNELIUS WEYGANDT.

positorium; Jacob, 100 pounds, high case clock and appurtenances; Peter, 100 pounds, and Cornelius, 100 pounds. Sons-in-law, Conrad Best, 50 pounds; Henry Fraes, 93 pounds, 5 shillings, and Peter Ihrig, 117 pounds. Society for furthering the Gospel among heathen (Bethlehem, Pa.), 16 dollars. Christian Frederick Steinman, for use of Schoeneck Moravian Church, 40 shillings. The balance of his estate to be divided among his children, John, Jacob, Peter, Cornelius, and Hannah, wife of Conrad Best, the children of his deceased daughter, Maria Agneta, late wife of Henry Fraes, and Susan, wife of Peter Ihrig. His sons John and Jacob were named as executors.

The high case clock willed to Jacob is now in possession of Mr. Cornelius N. Weygandt, of Germantown, the oldest living male descendant, and by a happy circumstance it is located in the immediate vicinity where it was made 150 years ago by the clockmaker, Augustine Neisser.

Maria Agneta, the wife of Cornelius Weygandt, was born at Frankenthal, Germany, September 19, 1719, the daughter of Rev. John Bechtel and Maria Appolonia Marret, his wife, who emigrated to America and settled in Germantown, Pa., in 1726. Her father figures prominently in the colonial history of Pennsylvania in the religious movement to unite all German sects and denominations into one ecclesiastic body, and in his connection with that early era of Pennsylvania bibliography, made famous through the imprints of Franklin, Bradford and Sauer. In 1742 he compiled a catechism designed

15. CORNELIUS WEYGANDT.

for all who were in union with the movement above referred to, which was printed by Benjamin Franklin. This book was translated into English and Swedish, and all editions are now exceedingly rare.

Bechtel's project having failed, and being attracted by the preaching of Count Zinzendorf, he, with his family, united with the Moravians, and in 1746 removed to Bethlehem, Pa.

Upon the removal of Cornelius Weygandt to the "Lehigh Hills," his wife united with the Moravian Church at Bethlehem, and in 1762, when the congregation at Schoeneck was organized, she was received as a member there, and partook of the Communion, which was the first held in this church, on August 6, 1763. She remained an active member of this congregation until her death on May 28, 1789, aged 69 years, 8 months, 9 days. The inscription on her tomb in the Schoeneck God's-acre reads:

MARIA MAGNETA
WEYGAND,
late Bechtel,
born Sept. 19, 1719,
in Frankenthal
Palatinate.
Departed May 27,
1789.

CHILDREN.

33. John, b. Oct. 23, 1740, d. June 16, 1806.
34. Jacob, b. Dec. 13, 1742, m. in 1769 Catherine Newlane.
35. Maria, died before reaching maturity.
36. Cornelius, married Barbara Stecher.
37. Hannah, married Conrad Best.
38. Maria Agneta, married Henry Fraes.
39. Peter, married Margaret ———?
40. Susan, married Peter Ihrig.

20. TOBIAS WEYGANT—21. MARTIN WEYGAND.

20. TOBIAS WEYGANT (10, 3, 1), was born on the "Queen Anne" homestead farm at Newburgh, on the banks of the Hudson, about the year 1724. The earliest authentic record found of him is dated July 25, 1746, and sets forth the fact that he and his brother Martin were then members of a military company, officered by Capt. AlBortus Tiebout and Lieut. John Moulinaer, which had recently been "enlisted to serve in expedition against Canada," and was under orders to proceed forthwith from New Yory City, where it had rendezvoused, to Albany. It is not known just how long he was in the service. His wife is supposed to have been the daughter of Thos. Smith, Jr., a resident of Smith's Clove, in the precinct of Cornwall (afterwards the town of Monroe, Orange County), N. Y. Not long after his marriage Mr. Weygant settled permanently in said Smith's Clove, which is at the present time the home of many of his worthy descendants. Of his five or more children the names of but three are at present known, viz: John, Hannah and Sarah. He and his son John were both signers of the Revolutionary pledge and active members of the militia company of their town, during the war of the Revolution.

CHILDREN.

- 41. John, b. Jan. 9, 1750, m. Feb. 26, 1778, Elizabeth Smith.
- 42. Hannah, married June 20, 1775, Richard McDonald.
- 43. Sarah, married June 20, 1775, John Hoff.

21. MARTIN WEIGAND, 1726-1792. (10, 3, 1), was born in the village of Newburgh, N. Y. In 1746 he, with his brother Tobias, enlisted in a military company raised by Capt. AlBortus Tiebout, of New

21. MARTIN WEIGAND.

York City, and Lieut. John Moulinaer, for service against Canada. This campaign lasted for several months. Shortly after his return to Newburgh he married SUSAN ALBERTSON, daughter of Joseph Albertson, and settled permanently in the town of his birth. From 1753 to 1790 his name appears frequently in the Newburgh precinct, town and village records, as an owner of real estate and the holder of various public offices. Local historians agree in the statement that he was a prosperous business man and a good citizen, who, from the beginning to the end of his country's struggle for independence, was a trusted, fearless and outspoken patriot. He was by occupation a farmer, and at same time the proprietor of the hostelry so frequently mentioned by writers of Revolutionary history as the Weigand Tavern at Newburgh. When in April, 1775, the New York City Committee of One Hundred issued their famous appeal and Revolutionary pledge, and forthwith dispatched it by fast riding messengers to prominent patriots in every precinct in the colony, the copies brought to Newburgh were without delay deposited for signatures with Martin Weigand. It was at his house that the Newburgh Precinct Committee of Safety was organized, and it was there that it held its first and the most important of its subsequent sessions. In August, 1775, when the militia of the colony was reorganized for active service by replacing the elderly and lukewarm officers with young and active patriots, Martin Weigand, though 45 years of age, was selected as the first war ensign of Captain Samuel Clark's Newburgh Company, of

21. MARTIN WEIGAND.

Col. Hasbrouck's regiment. The first general order issued by Col. Hasbrouck after taking command of his regiment remained in force to the end of the war and read as follows:

“Newburgh, Dec. 18, 1775.

“Pursuant to the orders of Congress to the regiment under my command to be in readiness upon any proper alarm, I have appointed the place of general rendezvous to be at the house of Martin Weigand, in Newburgh Precinct.

“J. HASBROUCK, Col.”

During the eventful years which followed, this regiment was repeatedly summoned to the field, and performed much important service. Its frequent campaigns were directed mainly to counteracting “efforts of the British to obtain control of the navigation of Hudson River.” “In the still hours of the night,” writes Rittenber, in his history of Newburgh, “the beacon fires on the brows of the rugged hills flashed out the alarm, and in the long hours of the day booming signal guns responded to each other along the line of fortifications, calling the toiling patriots to arms for defence of their firesides. Anxiously were these signals watched, and as soon as seen fathers hurried away, and mothers stood sentinel over the homes of their children.” These beacon fires by night, or a corresponding number of signal guns by day, ever set Hasbrouck's men in motion toward their rallying point at Weigand's tavern, and we may be sure the old Lieutenant was seldom missing when the fife and drum sounded the assembly and the boys took up their hurried march toward the

21. MARTIN WEIGAND.

danger point to which they were summoned. Some idea of the frequency of these alarms and the extent of service of Col. Hasbrouck's regiment may be had by scanning the following official returns covering a little less than one year of Lieut. Martin Weigand's term of service with it:

- Dec. 12, 1776, alarm and service at Ramapo, 300 men, 27 days.
- Jan. 7, 1777, alarm and service at Ramapo, 100 men, 14 days.
- Jan. 28, 1777, alarm and service at Ramapo, 200 men, 40 days.
- Jan. 1777, alarm and service at Fort Montgomery, 150 men, 12 days.
- March 7, 1777, alarm and service at Fort Montgomery, 130 men, 90 days.
- March, 1777, alarm and service at Peekskill, 250 men, 40 days.
- July, 1777, alarm and service at Fort Montgomery, 460 men, 8 days.
- Aug., 1777, alarm and service at Fort Montgomery, 500 men, 8 days.
- Oct., 1777, alarm and service at Fort Constitution, 200 men, 10 days.
- Oct., 1777, alarm and service at Burning of Esopus, 460 men, 30 days.
- Nov., 1777, alarm and service at New Windsor, 120 men, 45 days.

When in 1782 General Washington established his headquarters at Newburgh in the Weigand-Hasbrouck house, Mad Anthony Wayne took up his headquarters and planted his flag at the Weigand tavern, which became in consequence a centre of attraction to a considerable number of the more adventurous spirits connected with the general staff and of the field and line of the patriot army. This tavern though the most noted hostelry in all that historic region was by no means an imposing structure. It was a low double one and a half story building, the older part of which was built of logs. It stood at the corner of King (now Liberty) and Broad

22. JOHN WEIANT.

Streets, on property which in later years became the model homestead of Charles Downing, the famous landscape gardener. Muster rolls of Captain Clark's Company made in June, 1778-9, show that Martin Weigand had been promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant. After the war he disposed of the famous old tavern property and removed to a more commodious and modern building which he had erected at a point on Liberty Street just north of the Lutheran Chapel on the Glebe, which his father had helped to build and in the maintenance of which he had always shown a marked interest. His death occurred in the year 1792, and he was buried in the shadow of this memorable chapel by the side of his ancestors. Only one hundred and seven years since, yet already every trace of their graves has been obliterated and the Lutheran chapel remains only in the memory of men and women whose hair long since turned gray.

CHILD.

44. Martin Weigand, Jr.

22. JOHN WEIANT, 1740-1804, (10. 3. 1), was born in Newburgh, N. Y. When a young man he removed to Smith's Clove, in the Precinct of Cornwall, Orange County, N. Y., where his older brother Tobias had already settled. On August 24, 1764, he married HANNAH RIDER, or Reeder. According to family tradition he married a second wife, whose family name was DEVRIES. He was one of the signers of the Revolutionary pledge in 1775 and a soldier of the Revolutionary War. During the greater part of his married life he occupied a farm which he owned in said town of Monroe, but several

23. BERGER WEIGAND.

years after the close of the war he removed with his family to Rockland County, N. Y., where he died December 15, 1804. His grave, marked by a plain slab, may be found in the old Waldron family burial plot about half way between Haverstraw station and Stony Point, near the line of the West Shore Railroad. On April 27, 1809, his sons and heirs sold the Monroe farm to Thomas Donovan. The grantors named in the deed given are "Tobias Weiant and Jerusha, his wife, John Weiant, Andrew Weiant and Mary, his wife, and George Weiant and Catherine, his wife." In their preliminary description of the property it is recited that it is a "farm or plantation in the Town of Monroe, being the property of John Weiant, deceased, and now in the tenure of James Galloway, containing 104 less 12—92 acres."

CHILDREN.

45. Tobias, b. in 1766, m. Jerusha Smith and Catherine Wardell.
46. George, b. in 1773, m. Feb. 10, 1796, Catherine Waldron.
47. Andrew, b. in 1775, m. July 4, 1796, Mary Rogers.
48. John, b. in —? m. 1st, ———? m. 2d, Mary Rider.
49. Samuel, b. —? m. Elizabeth Sheldon.

23. BERGER WEIGAND (10, 3, 1), was, so far as known, a life-long resident of the Village of Newburgh. He was a son of Tobias Weigand, the elder. It is quite probable his mother was a daughter of Berger Meynders, Sr. Like his brothers, Tobias, Martin and John, he was an outspoken and active patriot during the war for Independence. The precinct records show that he was an early signer of the Revolutionary Pledge of 1775, and that he was a member of Col. Hasbrouck's regiment, serving at

